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Docket No.: SANZ-254

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner apparently considers claims 11 to 20 as being indefinite because of the term "identical". This term refers to modules, however, and not to chambers. Thus, the word "identical" only indicates that the modules have the same size. A module, however, is not a chamber, since a chamber is built up of at least one module. No vacuum exists in a module itself.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Love in view of Shinohara. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner still asserts that Love discloses a buffer chamber and cites col. 10, line 41 to col. 12, line 24. However, Love discloses an isolation chamber having a pressure of between 0.01 and 0.001 microns, which is extremely low. This first isolation chamber 72 comprises a heater 118 to provide a supplemental conditioning effect. The isolation chamber 72 is then a chamber for pretreating the substrate. The isolation chambers 72, 74 are proved to purge the coating chamber atmosphere of possible contaminants. The two isolation chambers are of identical construction, i.e., they both comprise a heater.

To remove contaminants, e.g., moisture, a very low pressure is required.

The buffer chambers do not comprise any such heaters and do not have such a low pressure, because they are not used to remove contaminants; in fact, the buffer chambers are used to equalize the pressure between the outer chambers and the buffer chambers. This is not disclosed by Love.

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Love also fails to disclose a buffer chamber and an outward transfer chamber which are developed as identical modules.

As can be seen from Fig. 1, for instance, the chamber 32 is smaller than the isolation chamber 74, because the chamber 32 is not as broad as the chamber 74, keeping in mind that chamber 74 is not a buffer chamber.

Thus, it is not only an object, in essence, to modify an arrangement such as is disclosed by Love to include a substrate larger than the chambers, but also to provide an arrangement for a larger substrate than an arrangement having buffer chambers, because buffer chambers are not shown by Love. It is further an object to provide a buffer chamber being developed identical to an outward transfer chamber.

Shinohara discloses buffer chambers, but a person skilled in the art would not combine Shinohara with Love since a person skilled in the art would not replace nor have any reason to replace the isolation chambers in Love by buffer chambers, since the buffer chambers cannot be used as chambers to remove moisture.

Furthermore, Shinohara does not disclose an outward transfer chamber, because the substrate is not moved out of the arrangement.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowance is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

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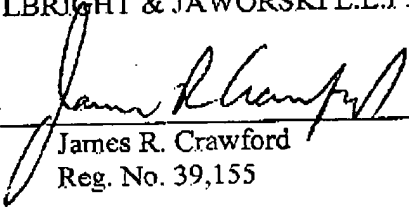
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-SANZ-254-US.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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